

HAMILTON OLD BOYS CRICKET CLUB

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1995/96 SEASON

1995/96 was a solid and unspectacular season for Old Boys. The club has however maintained its sound base and this places it in a good position to meet the challenges of the future.

From a playing viewpoint, the Premier and Senior A teams both missed out on final berths, finishing just below the leaders. Both teams enjoyed mixed success, the Premiers with a strong start to the season which faded after Christmas; and the Senior A's who had some excellent performances interspersed with some very ordinary efforts. Once again the Senior B team struggled and this is an area of concern which must be addressed.

The relative lack of success of the teams was reflected in the performance of individuals, which was generally not to the standards expected. However there was again a productive wicket taking season from Guy Hodgson, and good performances also from Matthew Baird, Ben Hart and Craig Priscott in the Premiers. The Senior A team had solid performers in Chris Townley and Rupert Hodgson to add to some excellent efforts from promising players such as Mike Oliver.

From an administrative point of view, the onus once again fell on a diligent few. Special thanks in particular to the efforts of Rupert Hodgson, Grant Reid and John Ottaway for the commitment they have given their respective roles this year. In addition Blair Bulloch made a valuable contribution as a new member of the committee. The future of the club depends on more of the other members of the club making a greater commitment to off-field activities. Some of the members whose role is now to step in and take a greater role in the administration need to consider this carefully.

I believe the club has also reached a turning point with regard to its sponsorship and social situation. At the start of the season we were faced with a difficult decision regarding sponsorship (which impacted on our social activities) and decided to remain with the status quo. Now, a year on, I would encourage the incoming committee to seek alternative sponsorship, and if possible, a more convivial environment in which to socialise after practices and matches. I think this will have a positive impact on social activities.

This does not mean lessening our contact with Boys High. Quite the opposite as I believe that with Dave Richardson more involved with coaching at the school that we are well-placed to capitalise on this contact. Allied to this is the matter of practice facilities and again we are well placed to develop better facilities at Boys High.

The club also faces challenges and opportunities as the HCA seeks amalgamation of clubs, and this will be one of the big issues to deal with in the coming year.

I am stepping down from the position of Chairman, and wish my successor and the new committee well for the upcoming season. There are plenty of challenges ahead.

Tony Giles
5/08/96